

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Dace et al.

Group Art Unit: 1639

**Serial No.: 09/879,279** 

Examiner: Epperson, Jon D.

Filed: June 12, 2001

Docket No.: 1392/18/2

Confirmation No.: 3524

For:

IN VITRO CAPTURE OF NUCLEIC ACIDS VIA MODIFIED

**OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND MAGNETIC BEADS** 

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

## **DECLARATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.131**

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

- I, Gayle Dace, am a co-inventor of the invention disclosed and claimed in the subject above captioned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/879,279.
- I have had the opportunity to review the Official Action mailed on July 13, 2004 from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for the above-referenced U.S. patent application.
- 3. I have also reviewed the following documents cited by the United States
  Patent and Trademark Office in the Official Action mailed on July 13, 2004:

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

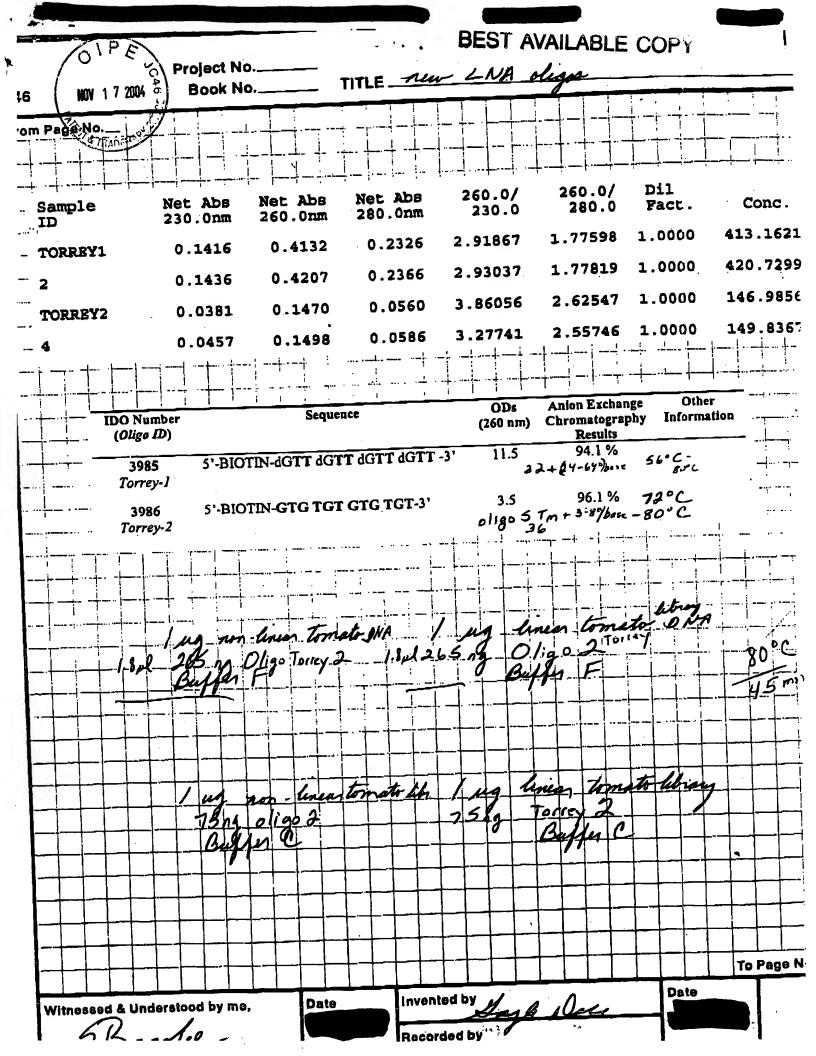
Serial No.: 09/879,279

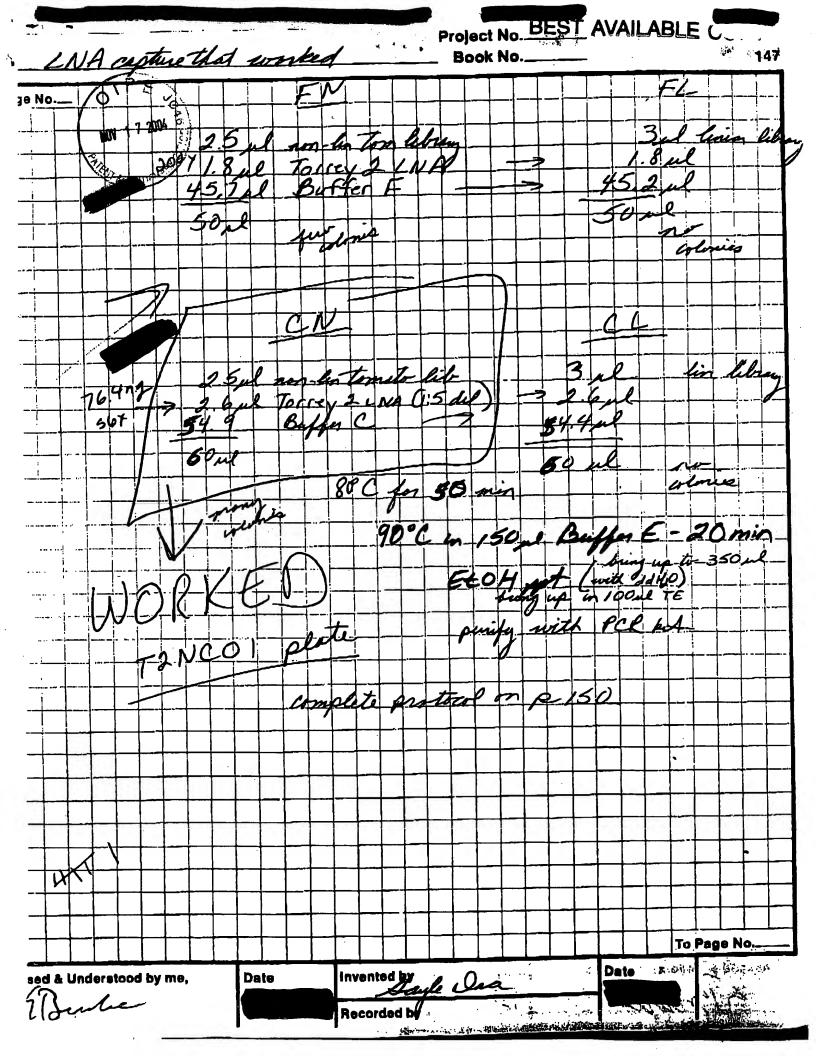
- (a) U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0077609 A1 (the '609 application), claiming priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/278,598; and
- (b) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/278,598 (the '598 Application).
- 4. The invention embodied in claims 1-8, 11-24 and 31 of the subject U.S. patent application was invented prior to the earliest claimed priority date of March 25, 2001 of the '609 and '598 applications.
- 5. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a true and accurate copy of consecutively numbered laboratory notebook pages documenting experiments performed involving the subject matter embodied in the pending claims, which pages are signed by me and a witness. Exhibit A provides evidence of the subject matter recited in the pending claims and predates the earliest claimed priority date of March 25, 2001 of the '609 and '598 applications.

I hereby declare that all statements herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: 10/13/04 By: Sayle Dace, M.S.

Gayle Dace, M.S.





## This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning Operations and is not part of the Official Record

## BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

| BLACK BORDERS
| IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
| FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
| BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
| SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
| COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
| GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
| LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
| REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**□** OTHER:

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.